

THE HAWAIIAN STAR

DAILY AND SEMI-WEEKLY

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1899.

BRAVELY MET.

The Board of Health, supported by the citizens, has taken the matter of the plague in hand with a vim and energy which must be very reassuring to the timid, and satisfactory to the thoughtful. There has been no delay. As soon as it was discovered that the plague had actually gained a foothold, the battle against it was commenced and before evening a strict quarantine had been established, inspections made, organization perfected and money voted for carrying on the fight. Great credit must be given to Minister Cooper for his energy. There are very few places, if any, upon the face of the globe, where measures could have been taken so efficiently and so rapidly.

The situation today is reassuring. There have been five cases of the disease and five deaths. These occurred yesterday. No new cases have developed today. Should any develop the fact would be known instantly and the unfortunate sufferer segregated at once. Of course we are not quite out of the wood. No one can tell for the next ten days, the usual period of incubation, whether others, besides those who have succumbed, have not been inoculated. But the speed with which quarantine measures have been taken will isolate such cases and prevent them from carrying contagion further.

The measures taken for cleaning the town are efficient, and in this the citizens can individually co-operate. Yards should be thoroughly overhauled and all decaying matter should be burned. Each householder should supply himself with disinfectants and there should be a liberal use of white wash. By taking such measures the work of the Board of Health will be lightened at a time when it needs every assistance that the citizens can give.

It is very satisfactory to find that there is no panic, and that the citizens have met this attack from an insidious foe in a calm and business-like manner. They have shown both nerve and judgment. In cases of disease itself that kills, and it must be said that the manner in which the Board of Health is managing this matter dispels fear even in the minds of those who are constitutionally timid.

Today it is permissible to write in a most hopeful strain, and it is possible that the snake has been strangled in its act of birth. If this be so, Honolulu is a very lucky city.

The Portuguese band was extremely cheerful last night. It indulged in a series of the most lugubrious funeral marches. The effect upon the nerves of a number of rather scared ladies was all that the leader of that band could desire. But there are some people who would suggest that when plague is threatening the city this is not quite appropriate music.

PUBLIC vs. PRIVATE CONVENIENCE.

There really should be some limit to moving houses in bulk. At the present time a house is being moved along King street. It disarranges all the tram car traffic and will disarrange it for some time to come. Further it disarranges all the telephone wires and important messages yesterday afternoon failed to connect. As it happened it was very important that these messages should reach, but the house, belonging to one man threw dozens and twenties of people out of connection. Then again the trees which overshadowed the road, and made walking a pleasure under our tropic sun, have had their branches cut and mutilated, and it will be years before they are in proper shape again.

What are the regulations for moving houses? The question has never come up, as far as The Star can learn, before the courts. But there should be some limit to this kind of thing. Certainly it was never meant that the convenience of one man should inconvenience half a city, paralyze, for a time, its rapid telephone accommodation, stop its tram car traffic, and destroy the beautiful trees which are the charm of our tropic city.

When last seen in the evening the devastating edifice had reached Union Square. That was a day's journey from its site, about four hundred yards away. How long it will take the monster to travel to its future abode, no one can accurately determine. We have no municipality, and therefore no city officers or mayor to appeal to. But there is the Minister of Interior, and surely he has power over such iconoclasm.

If the house referred to is being moved without permission it is the duty of the Minister to step in and order that it should be taken to pieces. If the Minister of Interior has given permission for its removal in this manner, he is much to blame, for he should have foreseen the great inconvenience to

which the public would have been put to. The convenience of the individual should never be allowed to interfere with the convenience of the public at large.

It is true that the public was inconvenienced by the opening of the streets for laying pipes for the sewers. But this was for a public improvement. So also the roads may be blocked by laying the rails for the rapid transit company, but this, again, is a public improvement. What advantage the public is going to gain by the removal of the old Guilck premises from the present site to Independence Park is very problematical. Perhaps the Minister of Interior can tell—No one else can.

Minister Mott-Smith is to be commended for his action in closing the schools. There is nothing like being prompt in matters of this sort. It works a hardship on many children because several schools had made arrangements for coming Christmas festivals for their children, and these, of course, are knocked on the head. However, they can be held later when our trouble is over.

During the year just closing The Star has persistently urged that the city should be cleansed. The attention of the Board of Health has been called again and again to the subject, but the remarks fell upon deaf ears. Only last Friday was the subject again urged. The remark was made in an editorial of that day. "Any one visiting the purloins of the city will soon become satisfied that there are accumulations of filth which ought to be removed. * * * There are festering masses of it in countless back yards, and these not always the residences of poor people." However it required the Board to run up against the plague to be roused out of its apathy. Now the filth will be removed and the city put into excellent sanitary condition—but there is a proverb about a horse, a stable door and a lock, which seems remarkably applicable.

We have an engine on the Plains, and it did efficient service the other day, being able to reach the scene of conflagration in time. Engines from town would never have been able to have arrived till all the buildings were a heap of ruins. With the extension of the city in the upper parts of Nuuanu Avenue, an engine should be stationed somewhere in the vicinity of Judd street. There should also be an engine house somewhere in Palama. The city is widely spread and should be protected from fire. Last evening the engines only arrived at the Renjes' place when everything was in ashes. But instead of the cottage it might have been the main house, and the result, as far as the engines are concerned, would have been the same.

The action of the Japanese physicians in going a body to the Board of Health and offering their services, and also asking to be allowed to placard the infected districts with a printed account of the facts in connection with the plague, is highly to be commended. The Japanese physicians are highly trained gentlemen, and understand the disease as well as any of the physicians here. Their action will have a good and reassuring effect upon the Japanese community.

It is an ill wind that blows nobody any good. The war in South Africa has sent up the price of diamonds thirty-five per cent, so the holders of such gems are just that much richer at present.

FREIGHT NOT DISINFECTED

The freight of five tramp steamers from Japan has been discharged here recently without any fumigation and it is possible that one of them brought the germs of the plague. The last was the Carmarthenshire, which came from Yokohama, where no plague is reported. But even the Carmarthenshire had late Kobe newspapers, showing that there had been communication between that place and Yokohama. About 400 Kobe immigrants, booked to come on the Carmarthenshire, were not allowed to leave. The Carmarthenshire arrived here on the 5th of this month.

The Norwegian steamer Thyra, which brought Kobe freight and 710 immigrants, arriving November 28th, is quite generally thought to have been the ship that brought the disease here and her captain, J. O. Edvordsen, is accused of very grave neglect, or possibly concealment of the facts. His steamer was allowed to dock and discharge at Brewer's wharf, as he gave no reports that there was any epidemic at Kobe. He is said to have stated, in fact, that there was none. His bill of health and clearance papers were all right, showing apparently a serious lack of vigilance on the part of the authorities in Japan. Just before leaving Captain Edvordsen made the statement that black plague was raging at Kobe. He told this when he arrived there would have been delay in discharging his freight and it would have been fumigated. Many people think that he deliberately concealed the facts, endangering thousands of lives here, for the sake of getting a quick discharge.

The Abergeldie came here from Yokohama on the first, with 685 immigrants, and on the 25th of November, the Yorihome Maru and Toyo Maru arrived together from the same place, having 1435 Japanese on board. None of the freight from these vessels was fumigated. It was hauled up town from the steamers and is now distributed about Chinatown, on island steamers and on various islands. Some of it is still on Brewer's wharf.

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Honolulu, H. I.

NOTICE OF ASSESSMENT.

Notice is hereby given that the Sixth assessment of ten (10) per cent on the capital stock of the Honolulu Rapid Transit and Land Company, will be due and payable to J. H. Fisher at Bishop & Co. Bankers, Honolulu, on the 1st day of December prox. The shares upon which any assessment may remain unpaid after thirty days from said date, will be declared delinquent.

CHARLES H. ATHERTON,
Secretary H. R. T. & L. Co.
Honolulu, December 1, 1899.

NOTICE.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

At a special meeting of the stockholders of the Inter-Island Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., held this day, the following officers and directors to vacancies, were elected to serve for the unexpired term:

John Ena—President, vice W. B. Godfrey, resigned.
James L. McLean—Vice-President, vice J. Ena, elected President.
Norman E. Gedge—Treasurer, vice J. L. McLean, elected Vice-President.
W. B. Godfrey—Director.
NORMAN E. GEDGE,
Secretary.
Honolulu, H. I., Nov. 13, 1899.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that MESSRS. W. G. IRWIN & CO., LTD., have this day been appointed RESIDENT AGENTS for the Hawaiian Islands of the following insurance companies:

ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY, of LIVERPOOL.
ALLIANCE ASSURANCE COMPANY of LONDON.
SCOTTISH UNION AND NATIONAL INSURANCE COMPANY of EDINBURGH.
ALLIANCE MARINE AND GENERAL ASSURANCE COMPANY of LONDON.

MR. JOHN S. WALKER will continue to be associated with the business of the above named companies.

R. C. MEDCRAFT,
General Agent and Attorney.

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NOTICE.

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T. MURATA.
Honolulu, December 1, 1899.

You Cannot Complain

This Christmas for want of a nice line of Men's Slippers to remember your friends with!

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